

INTERNAL MEDICINE—A Physiological and Clinical Approach to Disease—Robert P. McCombs, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Graduate Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1956. 706 pages, \$10.00.

As a means of handy, quick reference, or rapid review in the field of Internal Medicine this small volume should be of considerable value to most physicians. Dr. McCombs has made no attempt to write another textbook of medicine, but instead presents a "summary of the most important clinical facts, physiologic concepts, diagnostic methods, and therapeutic measures of use in the study and management of internal diseases." In this he succeeds very well.

As might be expected emphasis is placed on newer diagnostic procedures and therapies, but an adequate balance is maintained with traditional though still valid medical concepts. This, the chapter on pulmonary diseases is introduced with a concise review of pulmonary function studies and pulmonary physiology, following which several paragraphs are devoted to the importance of sputum in diagnosis including even mention of the importance of elastic tissue in lung abscess. A full chapter is devoted to body fluid and electrolytes. It is simply and clearly written, yet gives an adequate review of the subject for most clinical situations. The subject of infectious diseases is prefaced by almost 30 pages of pertinent discussion of immunity, resistance, hypersensitivity, and fever, and a review of all available antibiotics.

The main criticism of this volume, as with any digest, is its brevity. Much that any individual physician might consider to be important has been omitted. (The subject of congenital heart disease, for example, has been disposed of in two and one-half pages.) Yet on the whole, an ample amount of pertinent and up-to-date information on the medical diseases is presented for quick reference by the internist, the general practitioner, and even the surgeon. This book is especially recommended for the physician's office and the hospital library.

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HEART SOUNDS, CARDIAC PULSATIONS, AND CORONARY DISEASE—William Dock, M.D., Professor of Medicine, State University of New York, College of Medicine. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, 1956. 98 pages, \$2.50.

In this volume there are published the Porter Lectures of 1955, on the topics indicated by the title. At first glance disconnected from each other, the lectures are the closely interwoven records of years spent in the study of the heart at many bedsides and as a "guest worker" in several laboratories. Thus, the genesis of heart sounds is explained in part by observation of cardiac pulsations, and both sounds and pulsations afford indications of the presence of coronary disease.

The present wide interest in ballistocardiography stems from Dock's original demonstration that an inexpensive, simple, homemade device could replace costly and cumbersome apparatus. Clinical applications of the ballistocardiogram, or the "big pulse," are explored in the first chapter, together with its genesis and relation to local pulses.

The second chapter describes the production of sounds by normal and diseased hearts. Their valvular origin, long championed by Dock, is confirmed by simple experiments performed under the stimulus of the Porter lectureship and here reported for the first time. The significance of first and second sounds, gallop, click, opening snap, etc., is discussed with authority.

"Coronary Disease—the Professor's Friend" is fittingly the closing subject. Here again, the author has been intimately concerned for many years with the overwhelming evidence for the role played by exogenous cholesterol in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. This is discussed incisively,

together with appropriate remarks on nicotine and the sedentary life as factors in causation; "confinement to quarters" rather than prolonged rest in bed is supported as treatment.

Cardiologist, internist, physician and student will each profit from this pithy volume. It is required reading.

DAVID A. RYTAND, M.D.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN THE CARE OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN—Pediatric Research Conference—Ross Laboratories, Columbus 16, Ohio, 1956. 90 pages, no charge.

This is a report of the twenty-first Ross Pediatric Research Conference, which was held under the auspices of the Department of Pediatrics of the Yale School of Medicine, at New Haven, March 13 and 14, 1956, under the chairmanship of Milton J. E. Senn, M.D., Sterling Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Yale. There were thirty-one participants in the conference, twenty-nine of whom were pediatricians, several being trained also in child psychiatry. Two were psychiatric social workers, and the fields of public health, physiology, child development were also represented.

The content of the booklet pertains largely to the psychological aspects of pediatric practice and its problems, but considerable discussion, also, is devoted to the training of pediatricians in the psychological aspects of pediatric practice. There are leading discussions of the psychological aspects of pregnancy, the mother-infant relationship and infant development, the psychological approach to the interview and physical examination, plans for integrated pediatric-psychiatric learning, the role of the case worker in pediatric teaching and practice, and descriptions of several experiments relating to comprehensive pediatric care, together with a considerable inclusion of the spontaneous comments and contributions of the various participants.

The discussions are by leaders in the field which is sometimes called pediatric-psychiatry and should be of interest to pediatricians and general practitioners who wish to play the role which they can in the fostering of mental health in childhood.

HALE F. SHIRLEY, M.D.

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CHILDREN'S EYE PROBLEMS—Emanuel Krimsky, M.D., Attending Staff in Ophthalmology, St. John's Hospital, Long Island City. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York, 1956. 175 pages, \$6.00.

According to the author, the aim of the book is to provide the pediatrician and the general practitioner with a practical, usable guide to the understanding of the eye problems of children. The contents of the book are divided into an Introduction, which includes the eye and its development, normal ocular phenomena; Examining the Child, Eye Disorders Mainly of Local Origin; Other Eye Disorders; Eye Disorders of Systemic Origin; and Problems in Management.

The book is primarily a detailed outline of the subject with insufficient data, in most instances, to be of any help to the pediatrician or general practitioner. For example, a better account of the changes that occur in the development of retrolental fibroplasia together with the occasional case in which there is regression and the findings in these cases, would have been of more value than some of the material now included. In some instances, the data given are too complicated to be interpreted by anyone not trained in ophthalmology. There was also evidence of authors being misquoted.

Chapter II, or "Examining the Child," is probably the best part of the book. As to the book, itself, the format is excellent, illustrations are unusually good, and the reproductions are outstanding.